



9-11 February 2026 | Reston, Virginia



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Day 1 – Monday, 9 February

Theme: Gray Zone Convergence: Cognitive Security at the Intersection of Influence, Innovation, and Shared Interests

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- 0730-0830: Registration & Breakfast
- 0830-0845: **Welcome and Introduction**
Austin Branch, IPA
- 0845-0900: **Special Welcome (Recorded):**
Sen Roger Wicker, Mississippi, Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
- 0900-0920: **Scene Setter: “Seizing the Cognitive Advantage”**
Dave Pitts, IPA, Former CIA Executive
- 0920-1020: **Senior Fireside Chat: Information in the Age of Great Power Competition**
Moderated by **Suzanne Kelly, CEO and Publisher, The Cipher Brief**
Admiral James A. “Sandy” Winnefeld (Ret.) – Former Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Bob Pearson – Chair, Pearson Advisory Group, Author, Advisor, Entrepreneur, Lecturer
- 1020-1045: **Break**

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- 1045-1145: **Panel: Evolution of Global Conflict and Competition: Navigating the Gray Zone**
Moderator: **Brad Christian**, COO & Executive Editor-Open Source Report, The Cipher Brief
Dave Pitts, former CIA Executive, Co-Founder of The Cipher Brief Gray Zone Group
Sarah Cunningham, NATO Allied Command Transformation's lead for Cognitive Warfare
Jay Janzen, Strategic Communications Director, NATO
John Hultquist, Chief Analyst, Google Threat Intelligence Group
- 1145-1300: **Working Lunch & Networking**
Industry Demos are Open
- 1300-1400: **Operationalizing Information: US Army: A Service and Commanders' Perspective**
Service: MG Jake Kwon, DAMO-SOI

Commander: LTG Lawrence G. Ferguson, CG, United States Army Special Operations
MG Jason Slider, Commander, JFK Special Warfare Center & School
- 1400-1435: **Operationalizing Information—The Service Perspective: US Navy**
RDML Michael Freidberg, Vice Commander, Naval Information Forces
- 1435-1450: **Introduction: National Center for Narrative Intelligence (NCNI)**
Dan Brooks, Director
- 1450-1530: **Break**
- 1530-1630: **Panel: Frontiers of Technology**
Moderator: **Dr. Victoria Romero** (DARPA Information & Innovation Office)
Bill Wall, CEO, Accrete AI Government
Dr Jonathan Pfautz, Peraton Labs
Luca Luceri, University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute
Rebecca Fair, SVP of Information Advantage, TwoSix Technologies
- 1630-1700: **Keynote: Why This Matters**
Dr. Michael Vickers, Former ASD SOLIC and USD(I&S)
- 1700-1815: **Networking Reception**
Speaker: **LTG (Ret.) Stephen G. Fogarty**

Day 2 – Tuesday, 10 February

- 0730-0815: Breakfast and Networking
- 0815-0845: **Opening Remarks**
Speaker: **Brian Murphy**, President, Information Professionals Association
Order of Hermes Award for Excellence
- 0845-0900 **Keynote Presentation: National Policy Perspective**
Sebastian Gorka, Deputy Assistant to the President & Senior Director for Counterterrorism
- 0900-0930 **A Theater Commander's Perspective**
GEN Dagvin R.M. Anderson, Commander USAFRICOM (Virtual)
- 0930-1030: **National Policy Perspective: Cognitive Advantage**
Shawn Chenoweth, NSC Director of Cognitive Advantage
Dr Johnathan Malaya, Special Advisor to the Philippines National Sec Council
Brian Gibel, State Dept, Director, Office of Policy, Planning and Resources
- 1030-1100: **Break**
- 1100-1115: **NATO: Building Capability in the Cognitive Warfare Space**
Dr. Priscella (Scella) Nohle: NATO Allied Command Transformation Cognitive Warfare Team
- 1115-1215: **Panel: Role of the Private Sector (Leader, Problem Solver, Innovator, Trusted Partner)**
Moderator: **LTG (Ret.) Michael Nagata**, CACI
Tim Minard, CEO, Board Chairman, Entrepreneur
MG (Ret.) Charlie Cleveland, Senior Counselor, Palantir
Joe Miller, Deputy Commander (Support), US Special Operations Command
Joe Stradinger, Entrepreneur and CEO, EdgeTheory
- 1215-1330: **Lunch Break & Networking**
Industry Demos are Open
- 1330-1500: **Tech Demos, Breakout Presentations, and Networking (Running Concurrently)**
1330-1500 **Industry Demos** (Industry display conf area)
- 1245-1500 **Industry "Shark Tank" Technology Exchange(s)** – slots scheduled separately
ASW SO/LIC Capability, Development & Innovation Office
SAF Capability Development & Management Office
DARPA
JS J39
ARCYBER/2nd TIAD
UK MoD

1300-1400 **Border Security and Cognitive Warfare: Opportunities and Risks**
Moderator: **JD Maddox**, Irregular Warfare Center
Dr. Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, George Mason University
Dr. Jonathan Schroden, Center for Naval Analysis
Douglas Turner, CEO, Agenda LLC
Col Xavier Colón, Assistant Deputy Director, Special Operations, J-37

1400-1500 **Forging the Future of Cognitive Warfare Readiness**
Moderator: **Rich Butler**, Director, Strategic Multilayer Assessment, J39
Dan Brookes, Executive Director, NCNI
Dr. Asya Cooley, Oklahoma State University
CDR Mike Posey, US Army War College
Dave Acosta, Naval Post Graduate School

1500-1515 **Break and Reset**

1515-1615: **Outside the Echo Chamber—Entertainment and Gaming Industry**
Moderator: **Jeff Martin**, Chief Marketing Officer, Minard Enterprises
David Ayer, Film Maker, Director, Producer
Brent Romagnolo, VolKno AI
Dave Leener, Entertainment Industry Executive
Dan Elenbaas, Gaming Industry Executive

1615-1645 **Day II Wrap UP**
MG (Ret.) Patrick Roberson, Leidos; IPA

1645-1700 **Conference Wrap Up**
IPA

1700-1830: **Day II Reception**
Sponsor: **IPA**
Speaker: **Chip Usher**, Senior Director for Intelligence, Special Competitive Studies Project

Day 3 – Wednesday, 11 February

0830-0900: Registration & Coffee

0900-TBD **Industry “Shark Tank” Technology Exchange(s)**—slots scheduled separately
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